

## Where can I safely find a puppy?

### KUSA's Breeders' Adverts

Locate a list of breeders for your chosen breed on the KUSA.co.za website. From Staffies to Labradors, there are lots of breeds and breeders to choose from.

### KUSA Dog Clubs

KUSA has more than 200 dog clubs ranging from all breeds clubs to more specialised clubs who focus on one group or one breed.

Visit the KUSA website to see the list of clubs in Southern Africa.

### Visit KUSA Dog Shows

The best place to start is to visit a local dog show where breeders are exhibiting their dogs. Watch the dogs as they strut their stuff and take your time to look closely at all dogs being exhibited before approaching a breeder. There is a Show Schedule finder that can be viewed on the KUSA website.

Most good breeders will welcome the opportunity to talk about their breed and their dogs. But if they are too busy to talk to you, don't take it personally! It's often stressful and frantic while the breeder helps their dogs perform the best they can. Just wait until the group or breed has finished showing to approach the breeder.

### RED FLAGS to watch for

Learn to recognize the warning signs before you buy a new puppy to protect yourself and your family from heartbreak. Not all bad breeders will be guilty of these things, but the more of these red flags there are, the more careful you need to be.

### Buyers Beware

Never buy a puppy from internet-based classifieds, websites or Facebook. These sites are frequently used to sell dogs from puppy mills or to scam honest people out of their money.

Never pay a deposit for a puppy before meeting the breeder and/or visiting the breeder's premises.

Never buy a puppy before verifying any and all claims made online with the KUSA office.

### QUESTIONS for the breeder

During your visits to the breeder, it's important to ask the right questions to ensure that your chosen breeder fulfills all the requirements for a responsible breeder. These questions may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Are you a member of KUSA? What is your membership number? Has your kennel ever been investigated or has disciplinary action been taken against you?
- Are the parents of the puppies KUSA registered? Will the puppies be KUSA registered?

- When and how will I receive my puppy's KUSA registration papers?
- Will you be placing any limitations on the puppy's pedigree?
- Does the puppy's parents suffer from any health problems? Are these problems genetic? Does the puppy suffer from any health problems?

### QUESTIONS for puppy buyers

Good breeders will have loads of questions for anyone who wants to buy their puppies and some breeders even have long questionnaires to complete before potential purchasers apply for a puppy.

Here are some of the questions you can expect:

- What's your past experience with dogs?
- Do you have kids? How old are they? Can we meet them?
- What do you plan to do with your dog?
- Do you have a veterinarian who can provide a reference for you?
- Do you have a fenced-in yard?
- How will you keep your dog active and healthy?
- Where will the dog sleep?
- Will you return the dog to the breeder if you can't keep him?
- If you run into any issues with the dog, will you call the breeder?

## More than just a puppy

Good breeders will not send their puppy home without the necessary information and paperwork to help new owners. These include but are not limited to:

**Care sheet.** Most breeders will give you an information sheet or booklet that contains all the important information on caring for your new puppy.

**Sales contract.** It's imperative to compile and sign a sale contract with your breeder to ensure that the transaction is legitimate.

**Microchip.** Microchipping is mandatory for all KUSA registered dogs. Make sure that you change the puppy's details to your own as soon as possible.

**Vet booklet.** Your puppy should go home with a vet booklet that contains all of his/her health records and inoculations.

**KUSA pedigree.** Your breeder must hand over the pedigree of the puppy as soon as possible.

Health test results. Good breeders will make the health test results of the puppy's parents available to you.

**Food sample.** To avoid digestive upsets and to ease your puppy's transition to his new home, a breeder will give you a sample of the food that your puppy is used to.

Remember, a good breeder has been planning and caring for this puppy for months, if not years, and they will want to know that you will provide a good home for the duration of the puppy's lifetime.

Good breeders want reassurance that their puppies are going to the best homes possible & if the puppy must be rehomed, a good breeder will take the dog back at no cost.

Good breeders want you to stay in touch. They want to receive frequent updates and photographs to allow them to stay involved in the dog's life.

Good breeders are with you & your puppy for the long haul.



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# PUPPY BUYERS GUIDE



## FIND THE RIGHT BREEDER

Get the right KUSA Registered puppy for your family!

Find the right breeder with this puppy buyers guide from KUSA, the internationally recognized registry for purebred dogs in Southern Africa.

KUSA registers dogs and puppies on behalf of members